

# KINDSVATTER & ASSOCIATES, INC.

*Strategic Initiatives for Government Relations • Organization Management*

TO: State Representative Greg MacMaster  
FROM: Derek Dalling  
DATE: March 23, 2011  
RE: Landscape Architecture Technical Fix

First and foremost, thank you for your interest in landscape architecture and for agreeing to sponsor legislation for what should be an easy yet vital fix to the Michigan Occupational Code affecting Landscape Architects.

The fix the profession seeks would be to amend Public Act 490 of 2008. The suggested language follows:

Sec. 2205. (1) All requirements for licensure shall be completed within 10 years after receipt of the application by the department. If the requirements are not completed within the 10-year period, the application shall be void.

(2) A demonstration of ~~continuing professional competence~~ **CONTINUING EDUCATION** shall be required for renewal of a license as determined by the department and provided for by rule of the director.

## Background:

As you probably know, landscape architecture is a profession that blends creativity and science. Every day, landscape architects work to improve our communities and the environment, using their talents in planning, design and land-use management. Projects that landscape architects design and contribute to include parks, urban design, residential developments, campuses, shopping centers, gardens, transportation facilities, corporate and institutional facilities and more. The profession became licensed in 2008 with Public Act 490. However, DELEG recommended we use the term "continuing professional competence" instead of "continuing education" in the bill. Unfortunately, that terminology limits the ability for landscape architects to compete for jobs and projects out of state. Therefore, the profession seeks a simple fix to change the term "continuing professional competence" to "continuing education" so that Michigan's landscape architects can compete for projects in other states and the profession can complete its education rules.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Or feel free to contact Keith Cheli, the licensed landscape architect in your district that brought this issue to your attention. Keith is the Regional Field Planner with DNR Parks and Recreation Division and is one of the key leaders on helping develop the famous public outdoor recreation areas throughout northern Michigan. Keith can be reached at (989) 370-1907.